(b) It came to notice through the news-item published in "Nav Bharat Times". New Delhi on 17.2.2003 Unserviceable stores of 496.55 quintals of wooden and iron materials were disposed off for Rs. 98,350 through regular bidding process and the amount credited to the Government account.

(c) Preliminary investigation reveals certain lapses on the part of Sub-Divisional Engineer (Material Management), O/o the General Manager Telecom District, Moradabad.

(d) Detailed inquiry by vigilance to ascertain the lapses of official(s) involved is in progress and action will be taken accordingly. In the mean time SDE (MM), has been transferred from Moradabad to Amroha on 28.1.2003.

Post offices in Himachal Pradesh

†2954. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the number of branch post offices/sub post offices proposed to be opened by Government in Himachal Pradesh during the financial year 2002-03 alongwith locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Two branch post offices were proposed to be opened in Himachal Pradesh during the financial year 2002-2003. One branch post office has been opened at village Bamta, District Bilaspur on 14.12.2002 and another at village Hari Behna, District Mandi on 27.01.2003.

Payment of bills in Lowerkoti branch post office

†2955. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone subscribers of villages-Sidrohi, Chhupari, Bagi, Lowerkoti, Pausa, Dhara, Shaddu and Chiuni

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in the district Shimla of Himachal Pradesh have to go to Rohar Post Office located at a distance of 7-8 kilometres from these villages, for payment of telephone bills;

(b) whether Government would make some arrangement for payment of telephone bills at Lowerkoti Branch Post Office in order to facilitate the subscribers of the said villages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Lowerkoti, Branch Post Office was authorized by the Chief Post Master General, Himachal Pradesh (CPMG, H.P.) to collect telephone bills w.e.f. 1.11.2002. However, the collection of telephone bills at this Post Office has not started yet. Accordingly, H.P. Telecom Circle has requested the CPMG, H.P., to get the arrangment enforced immediately.

Licenses for basic service providers

2956. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chairman, TRAI wrote to Secretary, Deptt. of Telecommunications raising question about the safeguard provided in the license for basic service providers to use WLL with limited mobility to maintain distinction from cellular mobile services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's contention thereon;

(c) whether some basic service licensees are today offering mobile services through public advertisement on a national roaming basis; and